Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method comprising:

partitioning a database corresponding to object images into a first partition and a second partition based on a fuzzy similarity analysis of a measure of the object images to a first threshold.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

partitioning each of the first partition and the second partition into at least two portions so that the measure of the object images having a fuzzy similarity more than or equal to a second threshold cluster into a selected one of the at least two portions.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

deriving a feature set for each of the object images from contours of at least two views of objects corresponding to each of the object images.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a feature set from image content of a query object image.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, further comprising using fuzzy logic to search the database for at least one image similar to the query object image.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein using the fuzzy logic comprises comparing one object image from each of said first and second partitions with said query object image.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising:

based on the comparison, obtaining the at least one similar image as a match in the partition that indicates maximum similarity with said query object image.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

forming a similarity matrix for the object images within the database before partitioning the database.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method comprising:

partitioning a database corresponding to object images into a plurality of sets based on fuzzy logic;

obtaining a query image; [[and]]

searching [[a]] the database ~~corresponding to object images~~ for a solution set having a maximum similarity to the query image using the fuzzy logic; and

outputting a portion of the solution set.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 9, wherein searching the database comprises comparing a single image of each of [[a]] the plurality of sets within the database to the query image.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein comparing the single image comprises comparing a feature vector of the query image to a corresponding feature vector of the single image.

Claim 12 (cancel)

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim [[12]] 9, further comprising partitioning the database into a plurality of levels, each of the levels corresponding to a similarity threshold.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 9, wherein outputting a portion of the solution set comprises ~~further comprising~~ displaying at least one object image corresponding to the portion of the solution set.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An article comprising a machine-readable storage medium containing instructions that [[if]] when executed enable a system to:

partition a database corresponding to object images into a plurality of sets based on fuzzy logic;

obtain a query image; [[and]]

search [[a]] the database ~~corresponding to object images~~ for a solution set having a maximum similarity to the query image using the fuzzy logic; and

outputting a portion of the solution set.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The article of claim 15, further comprising instructions that [[if]] when executed enable the system to compare a single image of each of [[a]] the plurality of sets within the database to the query image.

Claim 17 (cancel)

Claim 18 (currently amended): The article of claim 16, further comprising instructions that [[if]] when executed enable the system to compare a feature vector of the query image to a corresponding feature vector of the single image.

Claim 19 (original): A system comprising:

a dynamic random access memory containing instructions that if executed enable the system to partition a database corresponding to object images into a first partition and a second partition based on a fuzzy similarity analysis of a measure of the object images to a first threshold; and

a processor coupled to the dynamic random access memory to execute the instructions.

Claim 20 (original): The system of claim 19, further comprising instructions that if executed enable the system to derive a feature set for each of the object images from contours of at least two views of objects corresponding to each of the object images.

Claim 21 (original): The system of claim 19, further comprising instructions that if executed enable the system to use fuzzy logic to search the database for at least one image similar to a query object image.

Claim 22 (original): The system of claim 21, further comprising instructions that if executed enable the system to obtain the at least one similar image as a match in the partition that indicates maximum similarity with said query object image.

Claim 23 (original): The system of claim 22, further comprising a display coupled to the processor to display the query object image and the at least one similar image.